



ICAR

A rough guide to navigating secondary sources of data  
and information on refugees and asylum seekers in the UK

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## Introduction

Those working on refugee and asylum issues in the UK have often complained of information black holes and data gaps. However, the proliferation of websites, online catalogues, portals and digitised products over the past few years means that for those exploring this topic for the first time, the experience may now be one of information overload.

Although there are still large gaps in our knowledge about refugees and asylum seekers in UK, both in terms of qualitative and quantitative data, the internet revolution and the current focus on evidence-based policy and practice and evaluation means that existing information is more accessible than ever. From 'raw' qualitative and quantitative data to statistics and research reports, from policy briefings to newspaper articles, and from listservs to online databases, there is a wide array of resources available to those studying forced migration in the UK context.

## About ICAR

The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR) was established to help a variety of professionals and members of the public navigate a field often characterised by controversy and misinformation. Through targeted and systematic identification and circulation of information, research, and data from a wide range of sources, we seek to improve the accessibility of information and encourage information-based debate and policy-making.

As the provision of accurate and independent information forms the foundation of all our services and programmes, we have accumulated considerable expertise in navigating a field of disparate information sources, and our Ask ICAR! service responds to many enquiries from postgraduate students each week.

## About this guide

ICAR has therefore produced this rough guide to help new postgraduate students, particularly those undertaking a Masters programme, navigate secondary sources of data and information on UK asylum and refugee issues. The guide does not aim to be comprehensive, but seeks to provide you with some useful signposts for pursuing research in this area.

The guide has been organised by type of information provider. Although we have tried to cross reference sections as much as possible, we have, where relevant, duplicated entries.

The sections are as follows:

- Government and statutory sector
- Academia
- Voluntary sector
- Inter-governmental organisations
- Media
- Think tanks
- Professional bodies
- Private research companies

*the* INFORMATION CENTRE *about* asylum *and* refugees IN THE UK

- Portals and information hubs
- Archives of raw data for secondary analysis
- Listservs

This guide has been produced by the Information and Web Research Team at ICAR. If your university would like to commission similar documents to support particular study programmes or courses, please contact:

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Visit our website at [www.icar.org.uk](http://www.icar.org.uk) for a range of resources and information materials.

## Government and statutory sector

Government departments and other statutory sector bodies are a key source of information and data about asylum seekers and refugees, because of the role they play in managing and regulating entry, reception and settlement processes. The main statistical data on asylum-seeking populations is that produced by the Home Office, and the Home Office is also the main commissioner of research on asylum and refugee issues. However, many other statutory and government bodies are required to meet the specific needs of this population, from education to employment, and so are beginning to collect data and commission research to underpin policy development and service delivery.

The government and statutory sector can be a very difficult field to navigate in terms of secondary research. However, the move towards e-government means that there is a wealth of information on the internet – although sometimes it may be difficult to locate in dense government websites.

### Statistics and baseline data

Accessing detailed data on the asylum-seeking population may be considered difficult, but collating data on the population with refugee status is even more of a challenge. At this point, individuals are 'mainstreamed' into services and no longer subject to the same type of immigration control as before. Furthermore, national surveys such as the Census do not record immigration status, so it is very difficult to disaggregate the refugee population from the migrant population or the ethnic minority population more generally. This lack of baseline data hinders research and policy and service development considerably.

Therefore in dealing with statistics on refugees, be aware of generalisations that may be made from small non-random samples and observations about migrant populations and ethnic minority populations that are applied unproblematically to refugee groups.

In recognition of the lack of data on the outcomes and experiences of those that receive status, the Home Office is developing longitudinal studies that will track outcomes over time.

- Statistics will also be generated from research studies as well as from operational databases. For information on government research, see the section below.

#### Home Office – Research Development Statistics

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Asylum statistics are compiled by the UK Home Office from administrative records and published quarterly, and in a revised and more detailed form on an annual basis. Quarterly statistics have been produced since the third quarter of 2001 (prior to this, they were published on a monthly basis) and they are published approximately two months after the quarter they represent (i.e. those for the fourth quarter of 2003 were published at the end of February 2004); the annual statistics are usually published in the August of the following year.

Both the quarterly and the annual statistics provide a summary of key points and trends, and contain detailed tables giving details of applications for asylum, decisions, appeals, applications for support from the National Asylum Support Service, detainees, cases at Oakington Reception Centre, removals, and grants of settlement.

The quarterly statistics include a breakdown of applications, appeals, detainees, and applicants held at Oakington Reception Centre by nationality, whilst information on sex is only provided for detainees and applicants held at Oakington Reception Centre.

The annual statistics are more detailed and include a breakdown of applications, decisions, appeals, applications for support from the National Asylum Support Service, detainees, cases at Oakington Reception Centre, and removals by nationality. Details of asylum applications and decisions are broken down by age and sex, and details on sex are also provided for detainees and applicants held at Oakington Reception Centre.

Additionally, asylum statistics are included in the annual 'Control of Immigration Statistics' which also contains information on entry clearance applications for settlement, different categories of admission and extension of leave, settlement and enforcement. A separate document, 'Persons Granted British Citizenship', published on an annual basis, is also available on the RDS website.

Annual statistical bulletins dating back to 1997 are available on the RDS website; earlier bulletins and more detailed data are available on request. T: 020 8760 8280. For example, the breakdown by nationality in the published statistics is not comprehensive. Countries from which relatively small numbers of asylum applicants come may be included in the 'other' section for their continent or region, but asylum statistics about these national groups is available on request.

#### **Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA)**

<http://www.iaa.gov.uk/36.htm>

The IAA is an independent judicial body, part of the Court Service, which hears appeals against refusal of asylum and other immigration decisions of the Home Office. It is a two-tier body, comprising the immigration adjudicators (who hear first tier appeals) and the Immigration Appeal Tribunal (second tier). The IAA publishes annual overviews of the cases it receives on a monthly basis by case type; this includes asylum, immigration, and visit visa appeals. The statistics do not give details of outcomes (these can be found in the annual Asylum Statistics produced by the Home Office), but rather give only figures for the number of cases received and disposed of, and are divided into three sections: adjudicator receipts and disposals; tribunal application receipts and disposals; and tribunal appeal receipts and disposals.

#### **Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)**

<http://www.dca.gov.uk/jsarlist.htm>

The DCA publishes annual reports of judicial statistics. These relate to the criminal and civil business of the English and Welsh courts administered by the Lord Chancellor and provide statistics. The chapter on 'appellate courts' includes figures for the number and outcome of appeals from the Immigration Appeal Tribunal to the House of Lords, the number of civil appeals relating to immigration from the Court of Appeal to the House of Lords, and the number and outcome of applications for permission to apply for judicial review and applications for judicial review to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

## National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

The UK government's statistical agency publishes data on international migration to the UK, including acceptances for settlement by region of origin and category of acceptance, at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nscl.asp?ID=8238>.

## 2001 Census

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/default.asp>

The census did not record immigration status. Although it is not possible to disaggregate refugees or asylum seekers, some information about this group can be gleaned from the ethnic minority data, which includes details of country of birth,

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/commentaries/ethnicity.asp> and from the 'focus on ethnicity and identity', <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=459> published in January 2004. Further information is available from:

Census Customer Services, ONS, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants, PO15 5RR, t: 01329 813800, f: 01329 813587, e: [census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk](mailto:census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk)

## International Passenger Survey (IPS)

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international\\_passenger\\_survey.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international_passenger_survey.asp)

The IPS is based on over a quarter of a million face-to-face interviews with a random sample of passengers entering and leaving the UK through the main airports, seaports and the Channel Tunnel. It includes details about passengers' country of residence, and the reason for their visit, or migration to the UK. The information relates to those termed 'visitors', i.e. people on a trip abroad that lasts less than a year, such as business travellers, people visiting friends or relatives, those on study trips, tourists and day visitors.

The IPS publishes a number of products based on the IPS data, including Travel Trends, an annual publication which provides details of overseas residents' visits to the UK and UK residents' visits abroad, and 'Travelpac' on CD-ROM, a dataset of selected variables from the IPS. For further information about the IPS results, contact t: 020 7533 5765, e: [ips@ons.gov.uk](mailto:ips@ons.gov.uk).

Other large scale surveys such as the Labour Force Survey provide interesting data on ethnic minorities and migrants generally, but do not offer disaggregated data on those who have arrived in the UK as asylum seekers or who have refugee status.

## Local authorities and consortia

### *Local authorities*

Some local authority departments collect quantitative data on certain sections of refugee and asylum-seeking populations for operational purposes, and as part of discrete surveys to establish demographic profiles to underpin service development. In particular, a number of local authorities and consortia have conducted skills audits on local refugee and asylum-seeking populations.

In particular, local education authorities are likely to collect data on refugee and asylum-seeking children at local schools. The local Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and teams dealing with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are likely to keep statistical data on local populations of refugee and asylum-seeking children. Statistics on pupil mobility are

also likely to be of interest for researchers looking at the experiences of asylum-seeking children. However, data for children not of school age, is more difficult to obtain. This data may or may not be made publicly available in aggregate form, but for example, looking at the EMAS sections of local authority websites and reports on their work will often reveal some interesting data. Data on unaccompanied minors supported by councils may also be found in news releases and articles produced by other organisations (see for example, <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/articles/article.asp?liarticleid=43956&liSectionID=3&liParentID=2> or [http://www.iasuk.org/press\\_office/display.asp?id=226&type=press&cat=53](http://www.iasuk.org/press_office/display.asp?id=226&type=press&cat=53)). However, the source of the data is usually not referenced!

Local authorities are also likely to have statistics on the numbers of asylum seekers they support under arrangements previous to the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) and on unaccompanied asylum seekers. However, once again, this data may not be published.

Looking at the information available online about the work of various local authority departments and also browsing official documents such as Housing Plans, Community Care Plans and Race Equality Schemes, often reveals useful statistics.

It is not possible to list all the possible web pages or points of contact for local authorities and their departments. Websites can be identified using internet searches.

### *Consortia*

Regional asylum-seeker and refugee consortia are umbrella networks made up of local service providers and stakeholders, and led by a local authority in the region or the regional government authority. The consortia often strive to pull together disparate sources of data on local refugee and asylum-seeking populations to inform their work. They may disseminate such data in newsletters, on consortium websites, or at conferences they have organised. Even if you cannot find this data in the public domain, it is worth contacting the consortium in question as they may be happy to release aggregated data for research purposes. Integration strategies are a particularly useful starting point for general statistics.

Consortia also produce other forms of information such as guides to entitlements and local services, myth-busting, research reports, etc.

Some examples of information published by consortia include the following:

#### **London Asylum Seekers Consortium (LASC)**

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/socialservices/lasc/index.cfm>

LASC, led by the Association of London Government (ALG) and Westminster City Council, publishes data about asylum-seeker accommodation and support services in London. LASC collects statistics from the asylum teams of all 33 London boroughs on a fortnightly basis. Their website includes links to weekly Excel data spread sheets, giving a breakdown of asylum seekers by borough and nature of household (e.g. single adults, number of adults and children in families, and unaccompanied minors) and yearly trends. They also publish annual tables giving a breakdown of asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence-only support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) by borough and month, and a breakdown by country of origin.

LASC's website also provides relevant news summaries, information and guidelines relating to accommodation, and information sheets relating to families given ILR. For further information

contact: LASC, 59 1/2 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0AL, t: 020 934 9657, f: 020 7934 9650, e: [lasc.data@alg.gov.uk](mailto:lasc.data@alg.gov.uk)

### **Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Refugee and Asylum Seekers Consortium (CRASC)**

<http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk>

[http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk/media\\_stats.php](http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk/media_stats.php)

CRASC publishes details of asylum seekers in Scotland who are supported by NASS. The website also features resources for asylum seekers, news and events information, myth-busting, and FAQs. For further information contact: CoSLA Refugee and Asylum Seekers Consortium, Room 107, Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow, G2 6HJ, T: 0141 248 2396, F: 0141 847 0086, E: [Jackie@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie@cosla.gov.uk)

### **Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/pageView.aspx?view=&style=&typeIdentifier=26-9-2003-87995768&subTypeIdentifier=26-9-2003-57679332&menuIdentifier=13-10-2003-238762656&menuSectionIdentifier=20-1-2004-757001854&menuSubSectionIdentifier=&eGMSIdentifier=9DB30B537B8D736A80256E1300590FD2>

The local authority consortia pages provide regional NASS statistics, myth-busting, historical information on refugees in the region, and integration strategy information. The strategy contains some useful key statistics and statistical projections. The consortia also produces a bi-monthly newsletter with key statistics included as well as a wealth of information on local projects and policy developments.

### **Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium - refugeeaccess.info**

<http://www.refugeeaccess.info>

The Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees also has a larger website and information service called refugeeaccess.info. Information provided includes contact details for agencies working with asylum seekers and refugees in the area (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/agency.asp>), local examples of best practice in a number of subject areas (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=2&id=3>), the full text of their newsletter (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=2&id=3>), and funding information (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=4&pid=71>). Many resources are translated into a number of languages.

### **West Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support (WMCARS)**

[http://www.wmlga.gov.uk/social\\_westmidsconsort.html](http://www.wmlga.gov.uk/social_westmidsconsort.html)

This website features a few general documents such as the consortia review. The consortium also produces weekly electronic bulletins.

### **North East Consortium**

<http://www.refugeeNE.org.uk> (under development)

This consortium is developing its website and will soon be producing statistical bulletins.

### **South of England Refugee and Asylum Seeker Consortium**

This consortium produces a monthly information briefing that features policy and project news as well as funding information. The consortium has also worked to pull together local authority statistics for its region. For more information, contact Rob Guile, Policy Officer, at

[rob.guile@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:rob.guile@southampton.gov.uk) or Duncan Hunt, Policy Officer, at [duncan.hunt@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.hunt@southampton.gov.uk).

## Research, policy information, news

Other information produced by government and statutory bodies include research findings, policy information and news updates. In their bid to develop a robust knowledge base for evidence-based policy and practice, government bodies are conducting an increasing amount of research on refugees, asylum seekers and issues relating to the immigration and asylum system in the UK. Although the Home Office conducts the majority of this type of research due to its specific responsibilities relating to these issues, other departments also conduct research on refugee and asylum-seeking populations as part of their aim to develop policies and services that meet the needs and improve the circumstances of all members of the UK population.

While the above section focussed on statistics and baseline data, research also generates a good deal of quantitative information of this type, so it is also useful to read the section with this in mind.

- Details on policy information and research produced by refugee and asylum consortia are provided in the section above.
- For more information on government research into this issue and a fuller explanation of each body and their role and purpose in relation to research, visit <http://www.icar.org.uk/res/rch/refresgove.html>.
- To find out what kind of evidence is being used by government departments to support their choice of policies, visit [http://www.addingitup.gov.uk/epc/epc\\_overview1.cfm](http://www.addingitup.gov.uk/epc/epc_overview1.cfm).
- To find out more about 'evidence-based policy making', visit <http://www.evidencenetwork.org> and <http://www.addingitup.gov.uk>.

### Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)

<http://www.dca.gov.uk/>

The DCA is charged with issues surrounding and the management of justice and rights in the UK. As such it works with the Home Office, Immigration Appellate Authority, and the Legal Services Commission to manage legal services provision for asylum seekers. Although information about and responses to asylum policy and its implementation as it pertains to the department is not all organised in one section, a search of the site with the term 'asylum' will result in links to the full text of any DCA publications on the subject.

- See the section above for details of statistics provided by the DCA.

### Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/index.cfm>

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk>

The DfES makes a significant contribution to research on issues relevant to asylum seekers and refugees through its research into English language provisions, for example the evaluation of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Pathfinders projects. The DfES has also

published research based on Ofsted inspections between 2001 and 2003 that sought to evaluate the impact of the arrival of pupils from asylum-seeker families. Other recent relevant research projects include that on English language as a barrier to employment, education and training conducted by Schellekens Consultancy and published in 2001. The DfES website features an online searchable database of tendered, contracted, completed and published research projects.

The DfES website provides a wealth of guidance materials, teacher FAQs, and policy information that can be accessed using the search function or the thematic A-Z search.

Local **learning and skills councils** (LSCs) are also active in researching local refugee and asylum seeking populations as part of their responsibilities to meet the adult education and training needs of local communities. For example, the London North Learning and Skills Council has conducted detailed research on several locally resident refugee populations and the Coventry and Warwickshire LSC has commissioned and published collaborative research on the education, training and employment skills and services for asylum seekers and refugees in the area (<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/cw/Documents/SubjectListing/Research/asylum.htm>).

#### **Department of Health (DoH)**

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/research/index.htm>

<http://www.doh.gov.uk>

The DoH has a history of promoting the use of research to inform policy and practice. Indeed many of the tenets of 'EBPP' (evidence-based policy and practice), and some of the methodologies associated with this approach emanate from the health sector.

The DoH has a clear interest in refugees and asylum seekers and has commissioned and funded many research projects on the health care and needs of these groups, including projects on specific nationalities such as Afghans, Somalis and Turks. Many more general projects also include asylum seekers and refugees as one of the groups researched.

The National Research Register (<http://www.update-software.com/National/>), a searchable online database of ongoing and recently completed research projects funded by, or of interest to, the NHS can be used to identify ongoing and completed DoH funded research on refugees and asylum seekers.

The DoH website also provides a large number of resources on health issues and asylum, including guides for practitioners and briefings on policy and practice. These can be identified using the search function. However, accessing the pages for the Asylum Seeker Coordination Team (ASCT) is also a useful starting point:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/TemporaryContent3/fs/en>. The pages provide links to the ASCT newsletters and resources for health practitioners.

*Meeting the health needs of refugee and asylum seekers in the UK: An information and resource pack for health workers*

([http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4010199&chk=6aRCKz](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4010199&chk=6aRCKz)), is one of the major publications the DoH has produced on this issue.

Because local health authorities are required to carry out needs assessments and consult with the local population in order to determine local needs, they also conduct and support research

on local refugee populations and have produced research on a number of populations that seeks to inform service development and delivery.

### **Department for International Development (DfID)**

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>

Through its work on country of origin contexts, DfID has already made an indirect contribution to research on refugees and migrants. However, its Departmental Report 2003 states that DfID is seeking to strengthen its direct engagement with global migration and asylum issues in order to address their impact and consequences for the elimination of poverty. In December 2002, the department established a Development Research Centre to explore the impact of migration on poverty. This centre is led by the University of Sussex and includes four institutes in developing countries (<http://www.migrationdrc.org>).

### **Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)**

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.asp>.

As the DWP are interested in refugees as part of the wider UK labour force, their research aims to increase the department's knowledge of refugees' employment and training experiences.

The recent research conducted by Alice Bloch of Goldsmith's College, *Refugees' Opportunities and Barriers in Employment and Education* (<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrep179.asp>), is the first piece of research specifically about refugees and asylum seekers commissioned and published by the DWP. Other examples of ongoing research include evaluations of projects delivering employment training and work-focused English language teaching to refugees. Studies of the interpreting and translation services in Jobcentre Plus are also underway and the DWP also commenced operational research on labour market consequences for refugees in 2004.

A general search of the DWP website will identify resources that relate to employment policy and entitlements.

### **Home Office**

The Home Office press office has an email list that provides notification of new press releases as and when they are produced.

### **Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)**

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

IND is responsible for immigration control at ports of entry to the UK and also considers applications for permission to stay, asylum and citizenship. Particular parts of their website relevant to asylum include 'law and policy' which includes links to and details of recent legislation, and statutory instruments, consultation papers relating to changes to immigration law and policy, and other policy documents, such as the 'Protocol governing the conduct of substantive interview and the role of interviewing officers, representatives and their interpreters'. The section on 'asylum in the UK' outlines the current procedures and policies. It includes an FAQ section, though the questions posed and their responses reflect policy concerns such as the focus on and targets for removals, measures taken to improve decision quality, and justifications for the dispersal policy.

Useful information to understand the way that cases are assessed is contained in the detailed 'Asylum Policy Instructions' (APIs) which cover all aspects of asylum policy, including the

standard wording used in refusal letters.

The 'country information' section includes the country reports, published twice a year (in October and April) by the Country Information Policy Unit (CIPU), giving background information about the main countries of origin of asylum seekers in the UK (geography, history, economy, and state structures) and details of human rights issues. The CIPU reports are based on secondary data sources; a full list of which is provided. The Home Office has recently been criticised for the quality of its country information and this has led to the establishment, under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, of an Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) with a remit to review and provide advice about country information material produced by the Home Office. The CIPU also publish Bulletins throughout the year to provide updates on changes in country conditions between the publication of Country Reports and Occasional Reports of Fact-finding Missions to a limited number of countries visited by the CIPU.

Additionally, Operational Guidance Notes are intended to provide brief summaries of the general, political and human rights situation in several countries, detail the common types of claims and give guidance on whether these are likely to warrant a grant of asylum, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave. They are produced by the Asylum and Appeals Policy Directorate, in consultation with Senior Caseworkers, the Appeals Group, Legal Advisers Branch and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Searching the press releases, also accessible from the site, may help in identifying the dates of recent policy changes, such as the introduction of pre-entry visa requirements, and the introduction of new processing procedures.

### **The Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS)**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

As well as being responsible for maintaining the various statistical services published by the Home Office, as described above, RDS is also responsible for carrying out research or commissioning research from others. RDS is composed of several different sections that aim to meet the research and information needs of the units within the Home Office. RDS has a listserv that notifies subscribers when new publications are produced and made available online.

#### *Immigration Research and Statistics Service*

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Immigration Research and Statistics Service (IRSS) is the part of RDS that conducts and commissions research and evaluation, and provides statistical analysis on immigration, asylum and integration issues. It aims to support the development of policy and management of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND). The IRSS only began its programme of research two and a half years ago and this indicates how recent Home Office research on these topics is when compared to other areas of its responsibilities. The IRSS conducts its own research and analysis and also contracts work to external researchers, such as university teams and research consultancies. In developing its research programmes, IRSS works closely with policy and operational colleagues in IND as well as consulting with refugee organisations, NGOs, other government departments, and a range of stakeholders to identify information gaps.

The IRSS consists of four main sections. The asylum and appeals section aims to provide and develop research and statistical analysis on asylum policy and process, determination

procedures and appeals. It conducts internal, and commissions external, research and maintains and develops asylum and appeals statistics, management information, and the ACID database. The immigration and citizenship section provides research and statistical analysis on entry clearance, admissions, extensions, settlement, citizenship and international migration. Both these sections provide information and advice to IND.

The enforcement, detention, general research and data systems development section provides research and analysis of statistics in enforcement and detention, conducts general research and evaluation and also develops, implements and manages new IT systems. Finally the National Asylum Support Service's Research and Statistics Team provides research and statistical analysis and advice for the National Asylum Support Service (NASS), including conducting evaluations of NASS developments.

Research that has been recently commissioned or conducted by the above teams includes work on asylum policies in Europe; interpretation and translation services; an evaluation of the impact of providing early legal advice; a review of resettlement programmes; voluntary assisted return; dispersal; proxy indicators of integration; decisions to naturalise in the UK; a review of methods to size the illegally resident population; a comparative study of removal strategies and systems; and a review of methodologies to research refugee populations, among others.

Research commissioned on practices for the reception of asylum seekers in Europe; the dissemination of information to potential asylum seekers in countries of origin and transit; asylum decision-making; indicators of refugee integration; reviews of current research on asylum policy and practice in the UK and integration; and a study of current provision of country of origin information in the asylum determination process have also been recently completed. In addition to a skills audit of people granted refugee status and Exceptional Leave to Remain, the IRSS has also conducted analyses of the labour market impacts and outcomes of migrants in collaboration with other government bodies.

- See above section for more information on Home Office asylum statistics.

### **Other Home Office sections**

Other research teams in RDS also conduct and commission research and collect data on issues relevant to the refugee and asylum-seeking population. The race relations section conducts and commissions research and statistical analysis on race relations, race equality, and cultural diversity to support the work of the Race Equality Unit.

The IRSS also collaborates with other sections of RDS in developing and conducting its research. For example, its work on the economic and social impact of migration was conducted in collaboration with the Economic and Resource Analysis Unit of RDS.

### **Local authorities**

Many local authorities conduct and commission research on refugees and asylum seekers who are resident in the local area. This research often involves assessing the needs of particular populations in relation to a specific or a range of issues as well as establishing basic demographic profiles to inform service delivery and development. Manchester City Council, Southampton City Council, Liverpool City Council, Birmingham City Council, the Greater London Authority, and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Lewisham councils in London are just some of the many local government bodies that have conducted research on refugee

populations in the local area. In particular, a number of local authorities have conducted skills audits of local refugee and asylum-seeking populations.

Local authorities may also provide information on entitlements, projects and myth-busting information about refugees and asylum seekers.

It is not possible to list all the web pages or points of contact for local authorities and their departments. However, the Hampshire Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (<http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/ema/refugee/home.htm>) provides an example of the information often made available by such departments.

- See above section for a discussion of local authorities and statistics.
- See above section for a discussion of information provided by asylum and refugee consortia.

*Greater London Authority (GLA) – Refugees publications page*

<http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/refugees.jsp>

The GLA has conducted quite a bit of research into asylum and refugee issues as they pertain to London. The full text of these reports, as well as of the Mayor's response to government policy proposals, is available online.

*Local Government Authority*

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/asylum/index.htm>

The policy pages on asylum do not seem to have been updated since the NASS system became operational. However, the website still acts as a very useful archival resource. It includes good practice information, briefings on policy changes, research summaries, submissions to Parliament, minutes of meetings and a wealth of operational information. Hidden gems include a section providing a great deal of archival information relating to the Kosovar programme.

**Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)**

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk>

The ODPM was created as a central department in May 2002 and brings together key responsibilities for regional and local government, fire, housing, planning, and regeneration. The Regional Co-ordination Unit, the Government Offices for the Regions, the Social Exclusion Unit and the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit are all based within this department.

ODPM has six separate research programmes covering all areas of the department's work and responsibility for each programme lies with the relevant policy division and directorate. Many of the programmes relate to issues such as housing, urban planning, deprivation and other issues that are relevant to the understanding of refugee and asylum-seeking populations and the issues they face in the UK. Some of the units are developing research programmes that could potentially incorporate studies of refugee and asylum-seeking populations. For example, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit's project on neighbourhood information and local data collection could be useful to the study of these populations, as could their evaluations of community projects and interventions.

Research has been commissioned by the ODPM in cooperation with the Home Office on the social, economic and cultural impacts of asylum seekers and refugees on local communities.

### **Scottish Executive**

The Development Department's annual research report

(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/development/ddrp04-05.asp>) summarises the focus of research in each policy area with brief details of new projects and updates on the previous year's programme, as well as opportunities for contractors to submit expressions of interest. The Development Department's most recent 2003-2004 annual research report lists several new research projects relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Some of these include research on advocacy services for refugees and asylum seekers, research on asylum seekers in Scotland (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/asis-00.asp>), and a refugee skills and aspirations audit.

### **Strategy Unit**

<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page77.asp>

This unit conducts long-term strategic reviews of major areas of policy and aims to provide a strong capacity for evidence-based policy analysis and strategic thinking for the government. It is probable that the unit will turn its attention to issues relating to asylum and immigration at some point and has already conducted work on ethnic minorities and the labour market that may provide a useful strategic direction for work on refugees and employment.

### **UK Parliament**

<http://www.parliament.uk>

This is a useful source of information on the development of legislation and policy. The 'Bills before Parliament' section includes a chronological list of the various readings and committee stages of current legislation, including links to the text of the Bill, the text of debates in both Houses of Parliament and in committee, and the 'Committees' section provides links to the reports and publications of the various parliamentary committees. Those most relevant to asylum legislation are the Constitutional Affairs and Home Affairs Committees of the House of Commons, and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. It is also possible to search the 'Hansard' section of the website (which includes references from 1988 onwards) to find details of debates and parliamentary questions (PQs) relating to asylum and refugees. Parliamentary questions are often a useful source of statistics and policy information that is not published or made readily available. The content of those relating to asylum are often published on the websites of organisations concerned with asylum and immigration and human rights, and reported in the news media.

### **10 Downing Street newsletter**

<http://194.201.189.210/output/page36.asp>

This email listserv provides a summary of daily Downing Street press briefings and links to full statements.

### **British Official Publications Current Awareness Service (BOPCAS) and British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service (BOPCRIS)**

<http://www.bopcas.com>

<http://www.bopcris.ac.uk>

BOPCAS allows users to search and browse over 28,000 references to key British official publications from July 1995 onwards (updated every week). BOPCRIS allows users to search and browse information from British official publications over the period 1688-1995. You can also read abstracts and read the digitised full-text version of a limited number of these

*the* INFORMATION CENTRE *about* asylum *and* refugees IN THE UK

documents. Most universities should be subscribed to both BOPCAS and BOPCRIS and so you should be able to access the catalogues through your university library website.

## Academia

As postgraduates, you are likely to be familiar with most of the academic resources on refugees and asylum in the UK. Therefore this section will be very much a selection of 'highlights,' rather than a comprehensive overview.

The key academic databases used for identifying resources on refugees and asylum issues are ones that you will have already used in your studies, such as IBSS, SOSIG, Caredata, Index to Theses and so on. Do try and familiarise yourself with the main databases and online resources that your university subscribes to. More and more academic journals are available online, so this should also help your work.

Even though your own university library may not have a very extensive selection of material on refugee issues, try accessing the catalogues of specialised libraries at other universities (see below). You can always arrange a visit to consult their resources or order a copy of a document through document supply services. Also don't forget that the British Library has an online catalogue, document supply service, and is open to researchers like yourselves.

- See the sections on government and the statutory sector and the voluntary sector to find out how to access research commissioned by the government that may be carried out by academics.

Some of the main academic information providers on UK asylum and refugee issues include:

### **Centre for Migration, Policy and Society [COMPAS], University of Oxford**

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk>

This new centre draws together the work of the Transnational Communities Programme, the Refugee Studies Centre and the Centre for Migration Policy Research [CMPR]. Research currently being conducted on asylum addresses the root causes of migration, modes of migration, migration control regimes, and impacts on receiving societies. Their website provides descriptions of all ongoing research, and the full text of working papers, press releases and opinion editorials, and presentations from COMPAS events.

### **Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations [CRER], University of Warwick**

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/CRER>

Refugees constitute a major focus of CRER's research agenda with current projects including research on refugee women, reception and integration regimes in Europe, asylum and refugee policies of EU member states, and institutions for the economic participation of refugees. CRER has a large resource centre on issues in ethnic relations, providing access to a range of grey literature including pamphlets and reports, periodicals, newspaper titles, and press cuttings. Many of the resource centre's holdings are indexed on an online searchable database. The centre also provides an enquiry service answering questions relating to all aspects of ethnic relations. Access to the centre and use of the enquiry service are subject to a fee for non-Warwick students. Research papers, occasional papers, monographs, policy papers, statistical papers, and bibliographies in ethnic relations are all listed and available to order online.

### **European Migration Information Network**

<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/>

The European Migration Information Network (EMIN), based in the Migration Research Unit (MRU) at University College London (UCL), hosts a directory of organisations, individuals, and projects concerned with research into European international migration (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/>), a list of migration networks (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/networks/>), a glossary of migration terms (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/glossary/>), a database of available migration and asylum data ([http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data\\_search/](http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data_search/)), and a list of European data providers ([http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data\\_providers/](http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data_providers/)).

#### **European Centre for the Study of Migration and Social Care, University of Kent**

[http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/useful\\_links/eurocentre.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/useful_links/eurocentre.htm)

Recent work by the centre has included research on the social care of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and a European survey of mental health services for minority groups and refugees. Currently the website does not contain much information apart from a summary of ongoing and completed projects.

#### **Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK, King's College**

<http://www.icar.org.uk>

ICAR's website provides digests of recent publications on refugee and asylum issues and navigation guides to key issues and populations that provide a good introduction to a range of topics, as well as extensive links and resource listings for further research. The site provides searchable directories of publications, websites, projects and researchers working on UK refugee issues. The site has a statistics section offering statistical summaries and signposts on major themes, and a real lives section linking users to first-hand accounts of refugee experiences. The Mapping the UK section provides an overview of asylum issues as they affect specific cities and towns around the UK. ICAR also has conducted research into public opinion and information provision issues and acted as conference rapporteurs for various events. Full text versions of such reports are available online. ICAR and UNHCR's Postgraduate Network provides support and information to forced migration postgraduate students in the UK through a listserv, newsletter and training activities. Its online database of postgraduate research is a useful way to make contacts with other researchers and assess gaps in postgrad research. The Ask ICAR! enquiry service also responds to many information requests from students.

#### **Migration Research Unit [MRU], University College London**

<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/mru>

Current MRU projects include the Leverhulme programme on migration and citizenship [hosted jointly with the University of Bristol] and the sizing of the illegal immigration population. The unit has recently completed research on the social networks of asylum seekers and on exile communities and post-conflict reconstruction. The European Migration Immigration Network, an information portal on migration, is also based at MRU – see above for more information. The MRU website features downloadable reports and a bibliography of MRU publications.

#### **Migration Unit, University of Wales**

Recent research conducted by the centre includes work on the dispersal and secondary migration of refugees and asylum seekers, refugee resettlement, the decision-making of asylum seekers, and removals. The website for the unit is currently not functional, but a website for one of the unit's projects can be accessed at <http://ralph.swan.ac.uk/refugeedisp/home.htm>.

### **Refugee Studies Centre, University of East London**

Current research by this centre includes work on children in crises of migration and transnational movements and diasporas. A website for the centre is not yet functional but more information should become available at <http://www.uel.ac.uk/cultural-innovation/research/refugee-studies.htm>. The centre also maintains the Refugee Council Archive which is now held at UEL's campus and is open to researchers, organisations and refugees. See the section on the voluntary sector for more information.

### **Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford**

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk>

Recent research projects at RSC include the patterns and trends of asylum migration, the relationship between asylum policy and immigration movements in Canada and the UK, and the media representation of refugees. The RSC houses a large library on forced migration that offers access to a range of grey literature, books, dissertations, and videos. Access to the centre is free and the catalogue is searchable online. The library also offers a document supply service for the cost of postage and photocopying. Research reports, research updates, working papers, and contents and abstracts for its journals are available online on the RSC website. Forced Migration Online (FMO), an electronic portal providing access to worldwide information resources on forced migration and making many RSC library holdings available in digital form is also based at the centre. See also the section on portals and information hubs.

### **Scottish Ethnic Minorities Research Unit (SEMRU) Archive, Glasgow Caledonian University**

<http://www.lib.gcal.ac.uk/archives/SEMRU/SEMRU.htm>

The archives of this unit, which closed in 2000, contains project files, interviews, questionnaires, research papers, dissertations, project evaluations, and published materials from other sources. The archive is now open to researchers by arrangement. This research unit's remit included refugees, so there is likely to be a range of relevant material for those researching refugee and asylum issues in the Scottish context.

### **Sussex Centre for Migration Research [SCMR], University of Sussex**

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/SCMR>

The centre has recently completed research into transnational exile communities and post-conflict reconstruction, narratives of exile and return, voluntary assisted return, and the illegally resident population in detention. The SCMR website provides online working papers, newsletters, and details of current and completed projects. A new development research centre on migration, globalisation and poverty has also just been established within SCMR which has its own website: <http://www.migrationdrc.org>. The website features briefing papers, working papers (comprised of thematic and country background papers), newsletters, news on upcoming migration events, and overviews of research projects and themes.

Many other universities also conduct research into refugees and asylum seekers. These include Oxford Brookes, Goldsmith's College, Metropolitan, Queen Margaret, Surrey, York, and others.

- See also the section on archives of raw data for secondary analysis.

## Voluntary sector

Non-governmental organisations, refugee community organisations, civil society groups, faith groups... there are a vast number of voluntary sector organisations working on asylum and refugee issues in the UK and most of these will prove to be valuable information resources in a number of ways.

Voluntary sector organisations provide a wide range of data and information: research findings, aggregated client data, analysis and commentary on policies and news, briefings for service providers and clients, syntheses of national statistics, country briefings, user surveys, clients' stories, staff experiences, conference reports and so on.

### Identifying organisations

One of the first things that researchers wish to do is identify the organisations and projects that work with/on the population or issue that interests them. Some useful resources for this are:

#### **Agency database, [refugeeaccess.info](http://www.refugeeaccess.info)**

<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/agency.asp>

This is the website of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. The website includes a directory of agencies working with asylum seekers and refugees in the area, which is searchable using a free text search or by alphabetical listings.

#### **Local resources database, Harpweb**

<http://www.harpweb.org.uk/content.php?section=vital&sub=v8>

The local resources database is searchable by area and type of service provider. It provides contact details for organisations working with/for refugees and asylum seekers in specific areas of the UK. See the section on portals and information hubs for more information.

#### **Projects directory, Mapping the UK, and links directory, Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR)**

<http://www.icar.org.uk/ICAR-UKPD-Search-Basic.jsp>

<http://www.icar.org.uk/res/map/map.html>

<http://www.icar.org.uk/res/links/links.html>

ICAR's links directory provides urls to UK organisations that have a website whilst its projects directory provides details of research, service provision and arts projects going on around the UK. Its Mapping the UK product provides contacts and links for organisations working in specific cities and towns.

#### **Radar, Refugee Council**

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

This comprehensive cd-rom of NGOs and RCOs working with asylum seekers and refugees throughout the UK is produced by the Refugee Council. It lists the contact details and a brief description of over 1100 groups, and is searchable by keyword, sector, type, and region. It is currently only available for purchase, though there are plans to make it freely available via their website. For more information please contact Refugee Council on t: 020 7820 3042. Details of the product were available online and should be again soon.

**RefugeeNet - [EU Networks on Reception, Integration and Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees](#)**

<http://www.refugeenet.org/>

RefugeeNet is an information resource on organisations and projects in Europe working on refugee integration themes such as education, language, vocational training, health, reception, and voluntary return. Although the project ended in February 2002, this is still a useful resource for finding out about UK-based organisations and projects.

If you are looking for locally-based organisations, many citizen advice bureaus, volunteering agencies, and local authorities may have developed directories of such organisations that may be a useful starting point.

## **Statistics and baseline data**

The voluntary sector often produces summaries and digests of national asylum statistics produced by the Home Office. NGOs may also generate statistics from research data (see below), such as surveys, and from client casework databases. They may even conduct specific research projects to pull together inaccessible baseline data on certain populations, as was the case with the report on refugee children conducted by Refugee Council and BAAF in 2001 (<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/publications/pub004.htm#7>).

Aggregate data from client casework databases may not be published, but may be made available to researchers on request and can often be found in annual reports or project evaluations.

Resources and information produced by NGOs and RCOs may also produce rough estimates of population sizes or other baseline data that is hard to come by, based on their work and client group data. However, in analysing these, do remember that some groups may also exaggerate numbers to secure funding or may underestimate numbers for campaigning purposes.

### **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

<http://www.aviddetention.org.uk>

AVID collects data from its member groups on immigration detainees in the UK. This data may be available on request for research purposes.

### **Inter-Agency Partnership (IAP)**

IAP collects comprehensive data from NASS and all NASS-contracted agencies supporting asylum seekers. Much of this data is stored for operational purposes, but aggregate data may be made available on request. Statistical summaries are often published in the IAP newsletter, available at [http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk/news\\_iap.php](http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk/news_iap.php). For more information about the data that IAP collects, contact Louise Mitchell at [louise.mitchell@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:louise.mitchell@refugeecouncil.org.uk).

### **Consortia**

- See section on government and statutory sector.

### **Refdata, Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR)**

<http://www.icar.org.uk/ICAR-DM-Search-Basic.jsp>

Refdata is an online catalogue that records metadata (data about data) about client casework databases and other datasets maintained by refugee agencies. Designed to facilitate data sharing and collation within the sector, it allows researchers greater awareness of what data is collected and what aggregate data can be generated and communicated to researchers.

### **Refugee Council**

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/infocentre/stats/stats007.htm>

The Refugee Council produces analyses of quarterly Home Office asylum statistics and summary historical comparisons from 1999 to present. It has also produced a report that examines asylum statistics dating back to the 1980s entitled *Asylum by Numbers*, which is available to order. The Refugee Council's client database is very sophisticated and is capable of generating aggregate data on a wide range of service provision issues.

## **Research, news and policy information**

There are a vast number of voluntary sector organisations that conduct research, compile information, draft policy briefings and so on, from large national agencies to smaller community organisations. It would be impossible to list them all here, so we have included a few key agencies that have significant information and research functions.

Because we have used these criteria of quantity and dedicated function, the list below may only highlight 'the usual suspects', of which you are already aware! Use the above resources for identifying other organisations, and contact and visit smaller local organisations as these too are rich sources of information and data, even though they may be less prolific due to resource constraints. Furthermore, it is worth remembering that many people miss interesting sections on the websites that they use regularly for other purposes.

- For more information on research on refugees and asylum seekers within the voluntary sector, visit <http://www.icar.org.uk/content/res/rch/refresngov.html>.

### **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

<http://www.aviddetention.org.uk>

This site provides access to wide range of secondary resources for immigration detainee visitors and other users. Resources include policy briefings, details of removal centres and visitors groups, research and evaluation reports, speeches, legislation, legal guidelines, operational guidelines, country assessments, best practice guides and statistics. Most of these materials are produced by other sources, but AVID has collated them to provide easy access to materials relevant to detention that are useful for researchers as well as detainee visitors. The site also features online versions of its own bulletin.

### **Amnesty International**

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/action/camp/refugees/index.shtml>

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/scotland/campaigns/asylum.shtml>

In addition to the array of resources produced on country of origin situations, Amnesty produces briefings, policy commentaries, educational materials, press releases, and research reports relating to UK refugee and asylum issues. All these materials are available online. Amnesty Scotland's website also provides access to research reports on asylum seekers in Scotland, a number of which were written by postgraduate researchers, as well as other briefings and campaign information.

### **Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)**

<http://www.biduk.org/info.htm>

BID's website has a range of online resources available to researchers, including research reports on detention, information sheets, best practice guidelines for bail applications, responses to policy changes and consultations, newsletters, and annual reports.

### **European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)**

<http://www.ecre.org/>

ECRE's website provides a wide range of resources on European asylum and refugee issues, including policy position papers, research papers, guidelines, good practice guides, detailed statistics, country reports, reports on legal and social conditions for refugees in individual countries, FAQs and responses, and an extensive selection of links to other organisations. Reports and publications can also be ordered at a fee.

### **Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)**

<http://www.iasuk.org>

The advice section of the IAS website provides information on the legal aspects of asylum and immigration. The news section offers online versions of IAS press releases, briefings and responses to policy changes, as well as a publications section with downloadable versions of research reports and other materials. The press area of the site contains texts of IAS speeches, parliamentary briefings, responses to consultation documents and papers, and media releases. Materials relating to current issues such as proposed parliamentary bills are grouped together for ease of access. The website also features contact details for other organisations.

### **Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)**

<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/index.html>

JCWI make a large volume of information available on their website. A law and policy section organises information under the headings UK law and policy, European law and policy, statistics, and consultation (<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/lawpolicy/lawintro.html>). JCWI also occasionally host information on sector-wide campaigns, including details of the recent campaign against legal aid cuts and against the new asylum and immigration bill (<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/campaign/campaignintro.html>). They are developing an archive of information, which will house substantial background information under the same headings as the ones use in the law and policy section (<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/archives/archiveintro.html>).

### **Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture**

<http://www.torturecare.org.uk/>

The Medical Foundation produces country reports based on the forensic medical reports and first-hand accounts of clients, research reports, annual reviews, aggregate client data, clients' stories, briefings, submissions and responses, clinical bibliographies and myth-busting materials. Most of these resources are available online, although reports are generally only available in executive summary format and full text versions must be purchased.

### **North East of England Refugee Service (NERS)**

<http://www.refugee.org.uk/>

This website features background information on asylum issues, FAQs and responses, clients' stories, summaries of recent research conducted by NERS and other agencies, summaries of recent statistics, a press release archive, and a library of links to other local and national organisations. The homepage also provides links to recent local and national news stories.

### Oxfam

<http://www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp/safe/index.htm>

The UK programmes area of the Oxfam site features information about its work on asylum issues. The resources area at

<http://www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp/resources/index.htm#asylum> provides access to the numerous research reports and responses to policy that Oxfam has produced as downloadable documents. Research reports cover issues such as media representation, poverty and asylum support. The site also features a myth-busting section.

### Praxis

<http://www.praxis.org.uk>

Praxis' website features events listings, toolkit resources for RCOs, a discussion forum for RCOs and their users, links for refugee communities, key facts and figures on refugee and asylum issues, policy updates, advice for professionals working with refugees, information archives, and online research reports and other publications. Praxis also has its own resource centre, although you need to confirm whether this is accessible to researchers or not.

### Refugee Action

<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk>

Refugee Action has a history of conducting research into refugee populations and has a wide selection of research reports available to order, as well as materials for community organisations and audio-visual resources such as interactive cd-roms and videos. Unfortunately only some of the most recent reports and research information are available online (visit <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/factsheets.asp> and [http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/viet\\_oralhistory.asp](http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/viet_oralhistory.asp)). The website does feature press releases and a list of useful links. Some of the older research reports are due to be digitised as part of the FMO digital library.

### Refugee Council

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

Refugee Council makes available online their press releases, briefings, country reports, policy papers, annual reports, and information for asylum seekers (translated), case workers, and refugee community organisations. It provides comprehensive summaries of legislation, entitlements and support arrangements as well as commentary on asylum statistics. A number of research reports can be downloaded for free from the site. Refugee Council also produces other research reports, videos, publications, information resources such as RADAR (see above), and teaching materials that can be purchased. These resources include *InExile*, a magazine about asylum and refugee issues which is widely subscribed to. Information about all products for sale can be accessed on the Refugee Council website. The site also includes a UK events diary. An email listserv helps keep regular users up to date with new features on the site and a search function helps navigation of the information centre. Its resource centre is now archived at the University of East London (see below).

### Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP), Asylum Aid

[http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_About\\_RWRP.htm](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_About_RWRP.htm)

RWRP is hosted by Asylum Aid. They have published a number of research reports on refugee women, including a series of country reports on women and domestic violence, and also produce targeted country information for Asylum Aid caseworkers dealing with asylum claims by women and make some of these available from their website

([http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_RRP\\_Research.htm](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_RRP_Research.htm)). The RWRP publications section also encompasses research and country reports produced by Asylum Aid that are not specific to women. RWRP produces a substantial monthly newsletter, the full text of which is available online

([http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_RRP\\_WAN.htm](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_RRP_WAN.htm)). A resource room is open to asylum-seeking women, legal representatives, asylum support workers and researchers, though not to students at this time. The catalogue is available online.

### **Scottish Refugee Council**

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/publication.htm>

The Scottish Refugee Council make their quarterly newsletter and annual reports available online, as well as research reports on issues such as housing, the Kosovo programme, and the experiences of refugee children in Scotland. The site also provides advice materials for asylum seekers on a range of topics, briefing papers on current issues, and press releases. An events board provides information on forthcoming events in Scotland.

### **Save the Children UK**

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

In addition to its work overseas, Save the Children is involved in a number of projects and campaigns relating to refugee and asylum-seeking children in the UK. By using the search function for the whole site or searching specific areas such as the policy library, education library, or publications library, you can access a range of products including personal stories from children, press releases, responses to policy and consultations, education resources, guidelines, briefings, research reports, and interactive resources for young people. A number of publications are only available to order in hard copy form, although the website will give you full ordering information.

## **Archives, resource centres and libraries**

A number of local and national organisations have libraries, archives or resource centres that are open to the public. Most organisations will keep a resource library for internal use and in exceptional cases researchers may be allowed access to these on request.

Organisations that have information centres that are open to the public include:

### **Northern Refugee Centre (NRC)**

<http://www.nrcentre.org.uk/infmed.htm>

The NRC provides an information and resource service to individual refugees, RCOs, voluntary and statutory agencies, the media and the general public, including researchers. Its library offers information on current refugee issues, countries of origin, national and local press coverage, campaign materials, current legislation, and refugee history. The library's resource database can be downloaded as a Microsoft Access file or viewed as a list in html. The library is particularly useful for hard to access materials on the Yorkshire area.

### **Refugee Council Archive, University of East London**

<http://www.uel.ac.uk>

The Refugee Council's own resources archive was donated to the University of East London. It covers the period from 1951 to the late 1990s and contains over 13,000 items. It is organised under topics including causes of flight, migration, asylum and refugee studies and according to state of origin of the refugees in question. Contact the university to find out details of access.

### Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP), Asylum Aid

[http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_About\\_RWRP.htm](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_About_RWRP.htm)

A resource centre on women, gender persecution, and forced migration is open to asylum-seeking women, legal representatives, asylum support workers and researchers, though not to students at this time. The catalogue is available online.

### Sheffield Vietnamese Community Association (SVCA)

This association has a resource and information library on Vietnam, Vietnamese refugees, and the experience of Vietnamese refugees in the UK, particularly in the local area. The library is open to researchers by arrangement. Contact SVCA, Jew Lane, Fitzalan Square, Sheffield S1 2BE, t: 0114 270 1429, f: 0114 270 6515.

## A word on contacting organisations

Voluntary sector organisations are inundated with information requests from the media, other organisations, refugees and asylum seekers, MPs, the public and researchers. In most cases, postgraduate student requests will not be prioritised, for obvious reasons!

If you want your information request to be answered, you may want consider the following obvious, but in our experience often neglected, points:

- **Be specific** – requests such as ‘please could you send me any information you have on asylum issues’ are unlikely to be answered. Ask about particular topics and specific aspects that you are interested in and be clear on what your time constraints are.
- **Do your research** – when you contact an organisation you should be clear about what it does and how it can help you. Make sure you have done some research around the topic you are researching and have identified as much material as possible yourself before contacting an organisation. It pays not to seem as if you are expecting someone else to do your research for you!
- **Be personal** – try and email a person directly. Try to identify who is likely to be responsible for dealing with enquiries of this type and who is likely to know most about the topic you are interested in. Emailing generic addresses will often mean that your enquiry gets lost!
- **Be polite** – write in full sentences, address people politely and introduce yourself formally. Spell people’s names and that of their organisation correctly.
- **Reciprocate!** Remember to thank people for their help and send them copies of your research report/dissertation/etc. if they are interested. If you are using a resource centre, a donation might be appreciated if the services are free. You may want to offer to help the organisation in some way, such as conducting some background research to a project they are working on or pulling together a bibliography on a particular issue.

## Inter-governmental organisations

The UK offices of several inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) who work internationally are also a useful source of information and data. A good deal of information is available online but further resources and publications are often available on request. The main international websites of these organisations also contain UK-relevant or UK-specific material and can often yield many 'hidden gems', particularly in relation to quantitative information.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM) UK

<http://www.iomlondon.org>

The IOM UK website includes its newsletters, information packs for refugees and asylum seekers on return and reintegration (including translated materials), and a couple of downloadable research reports on the return and reintegration of Somalis.

The main IOM website at <http://www.iom.int> has a wide range of publications on migration around the world, including books, studies, reports, periodicals, brochures and information sheets, some of which must be ordered for a fee, others which are free to download. Relevant reports can be identified using the detailed publication search function. UN related conference reports and policy documents are also available on the site. An archive of press briefing notes, IOM statements, and news releases is also accessible online.

### UNHCR UK

<http://www.unhcr.org.uk>

The UNHCR UK public information team produces a variety of information resources that are available online or free to order. Online resources include country updates, briefings on aspects of the UK asylum process, summaries of UK statistics and statistical comparisons with other countries, UNHCR's *Refugees* magazine, and FAQ responses. Materials available to order include *Refugees* magazine, introductory documents to UNHCR and its work, teaching tools, and statistics publications. A selection of videos, photographs and displays are also available on loan.

The main UNHCR website at <http://www.unhcr.ch> is dense with information and data, aspects of which are also relevant to the UK context. The statistics section at <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/taxis/vtx/statistics> features a wealth of quantitative data on refugees and asylum across the world, including UK statistics. The Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU) produces online evaluation reports (the majority of which relate to overseas programmes) and a working paper series authored by a range of researchers and practitioners (a number of which relate to the UK). The website also features operational guidelines, legal handbooks, guidelines covering refugee protection issues and numerous other publications. Most sections of the website have their own search function to facilitate resource identification.

## Media

Many postgraduate students have chosen to focus their research on analysis of media coverage of asylum issues. Even if media portrayal is not your area of interest, media reports are essential to researching policy developments around the UK, incidents of interest, and political and public opinion on this issue.

Most local and national newspapers have their own websites. Some only have their articles of the day online, others have free or pay-to-access online archives. A Google search will reveal most newspapers' website details. A number of newspapers and broadcasters, such as the BBC and the Guardian have dedicated sections on asylum and immigration issues.

A number of organisations and projects dedicated to interrogating the nature of media representation of asylum issues have also been established and these are a useful source for research reports and secondary analysis and commentary.

- More information on resources relating to the media can be found in ICAR's report entitled *The challenge of reporting refugees and asylum seekers* by Nissa Finney, available to download at <http://www.icar.org.uk/res/icpub/icarpubs.html>. See the final sections on resources.
- See also the section on listservs.

### Article 19

<http://www.article19.org>

This group campaigns internationally for freedom of expression and information, and a number of its projects in the UK have been related to asylum and refugees. These have included a research and media monitoring project led jointly with Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, the findings of which have been published in a collection of reports and other media.

### Asylum Support Information

<http://www.asylumsupport.info>

This resource consists of two separate services – a daily email and a website providing access to a vast array of full text information. The email service provides links to the asylum-related news stories of the day as featured in a variety of UK and international news sources. The website features a area dedicated to archived news stories on asylum, refugees and immigration issues relating to the UK and international contexts. The services are managed and maintained free of charge by Frank Corrigan.

### BBC Online Destination UK

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/uk/2001/destination\\_uk/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2001/destination_uk/default.stm)

This permanent feature of the BBC News website records current and archived BBC stories on all aspects of asylum as it pertains to the UK, as well as background and feature articles. A separate country profiles section organises information about countries of origin under the headings overview, facts, leaders, and media

([http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country\\_profiles/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)).

### **The Guardian – Refugees in Britain**

[http://www.guardian.co.uk/Refugees\\_in\\_Britain](http://www.guardian.co.uk/Refugees_in_Britain)

This permanent feature of the Guardian website records current and archived stories from the Guardian on all aspects of asylum as it pertains to the UK. Latest information is highlighted, and then stories are archived under themes of recent or ongoing interest such as immigration policy, community cohesion, European expansion, immigrant experience, smuggling, ID cards etc.

### **Independent Race and Refugee News Network (IRR)**

<http://www.irr.org.uk/asylum/index.html>

This resource collects stories about asylum and refugee issues from a wide range of sources, including local and regional press. They also produce lengthy editorials and brief research reports on issues of current concern. The network also offers a free customised news service. Subscribers can choose to receive daily or weekly emails that list the latest new stories in the form of a headline and the first paragraph, with hyperlinks to the full story. If you select the 'immediate' option when you subscribe, you can also receive the complete story in the body of your email as soon as it has been published.

### **Media Hate Watch UK, Diversity Online**

<http://www.diversity-online.org>

This website is run for the International Media Working Group Against Racism and Xenophobia. The Media Hate Watch UK part of the site identifies inflammatory and inaccurate reporting by the UK media and provides commentary and analysis of individual stories. News stories and updates are added daily, accompanied by supporting documents, pictures, reports, and legislation. The site also has a resource centre of relevant links and bibliographies. Much of the site is only accessible to those who have registered, but registration is free.

### **New Vision**

<http://www.newvision.org.uk>

An independent refugee media group and news and information service, New Vision's site features a news archive relating to UK and international asylum issues as well as online commentaries and analysis of media coverage and issues of the day from other sites and from those working with New Vision.

### **The Observer – Asylum: Myths and Reality**

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/asylum>

This permanent feature of the Observer website records current and archived stories from the Observer on all aspects asylum as it pertains to the UK. Stories are archived under themes of recent or ongoing interest such as asylum seekers in Britain, deportation, entry into Britain, the far-right position, and trafficking. A large collection of Comment articles is also accessible here.

### **Proquest**

<http://www.proquest.co.uk/>

Most university libraries will subscribe to Proquest UK Newstand, an online archive of UK newspapers. The archive varies according to the newspaper concerned, but goes back at least 3 years, and the service is kept regularly updated with new stories appearing 1-3 days after publication.

### **Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Media (RAM) Project**

<http://www.ramproject.org.uk>

Established by Presswise, this project aims to promote best practice in media representation of asylum and refugee issues. Its website includes resources on the use of the media, an archive of its bulletins that provide analysis and commentary on the latest media stories about asylum, links to key resources and websites, and a searchable directory of exiled journalists.

**Refugees and asylum seeker project, Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies**

[http://www.cf.ac.uk/jomec/research/research\\_asylum.html](http://www.cf.ac.uk/jomec/research/research_asylum.html)

The project began with the Refugee Media Working Group which sought to 'lobby, make press releases, pro-actively challenge media stories and generally change the way these issues were being represented in South Wales'. The project has continued through a number of funded projects that have involved conferences, media monitoring, research into media representation, the development of new narrative for broadcast purposes produced by children and refugee artists, and further work on gender, asylum and the media. Their website provides information about their projects, research and publications.

## Think tanks

As asylum and immigration rocket up the political agenda, key think tanks have increasingly turned their attention to the discussion of alternative policies and the development of an evidence base to inform these, or with which to critique existing policies.

In terms of resources useful to the researcher, think tanks are particularly good for commentaries on policy, research syntheses and expert discussion papers. When browsing such materials, think about which side of the political spectrum the organisation leans towards...

Examples include:

### Centre for Policy Studies

<http://www.cps.org.uk>

The Centre for Policy Studies has produced a number of publications on immigration and asylum, for the most part authored by Harriet Sergeant. These publications can be ordered online via the publications page.

### Demos

<http://www.demos.co.uk/projects/default.aspx?id=256>

Demos' project 'People Flow: Managing migration in a New European Commonwealth' aims to provide a picture of how migration might be managed over the next half century, and the political and institutional changes necessary implement such changes. So far a report, pamphlet, briefing, and press release on the project have been made available online and as the project moves into its second phase of 'road-testing' ideas and policy options, other resources are likely to become available.

### Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

<http://www.ippr.org/research/index.php?current=19>

IPPR's Migration and Equalities Programme aims to 'apply the values of the left to a rigorous analysis of migration and equality issues'. Resources produced as part of the programme include factfiles and working papers, synthesising existing research and information on a range of asylum and migration issues, and conference papers and responses to government policy consultations. The programme is ongoing and new materials will be added regularly.

### Migration Policy Institute

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org>

This think tank is dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. Although it is based in the US and has an international focus, it is included here because its website features useful UK-related materials. It includes details of ongoing research projects, downloadable publications, and research summaries (listed chronologically). Its news area provides an archive of press releases, op-ed pieces, and news coverage of their work.

MPI also runs Migration Information Source, an information hub on global migration, at <http://www.migrationinformation.org>. Migration Information Source provides a searchable data centre containing quantitative data on migration and asylum for specific countries, comparative data charts and tables for selected countries, and data spotlights, commenting on the use and availability of quantitative data on specific issues. The site also includes commentaries on news stories, a migration fundamentals series (providing basic facts on key issues), feature

articles, spotlights on key issues, country profiles, (brief overviews of vital data, policies, history, and political debates), all authored by experts in the field. The site also features interviews with key researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. A searchable archive provides easy access to all products and users can subscribe to a monthly email news flash and updates. The 'Refugees' section on the website pulls together all the information produced on forced migration, listed by type of product (<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Refugees/>).

### **Migration Watch UK**

<http://migrationwatchuk.org>

Established in October 2001, this 'immigration and asylum-monitoring organisation' has been the focus of much media and government attention. Its website provides a number of online resources such as pocket guides, briefing papers, FAQs and key messages that seek to show that arguments for large scale immigration are unsound. Key media coverage and comments from the public are also featured.

### **Open Democracy**

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/home/index.jsp>

Open Democracy is 'an online global magazine of politics and culture'. The website is populated by articles, commentary, and debate by a wide range of experts in areas such as conflict, democracy and power, globalisation, science and technology, and the media. Information about asylum and refugee issues appears under several headings, but a search of the site using the terms 'asylum' and 'refugees' results in a number of links to articles, editorials, summaries etc. Open Democracy also runs a listserv that notifies subscribers of new additions to the site.

## Professional bodies

Professional bodies that have a key interest in refugees and asylum seekers are often useful sources of information on policy and practice issues that relate to their area of professional activity.

These bodies sometimes undertake particular projects or campaigns and have developed materials to support these that researchers may find useful. Furthermore, professional bodies also conduct research into refugee and asylum issues as they relate to their professional specialism.

Examples include:

### **British Dental Association (BDA)**

<http://www.bda-dentistry.org.uk/about/docs/Information%20leaflet.doc>

The BDA has worked with the Refugee Council to create a database of refugee dentists, which would no doubt provide useful aggregate data for those researching the skills and professional backgrounds of refugees.

### **British Medical Association (BMA)**

[http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/\\_Home\\_Public](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/_Home_Public)

The BMA has published and made available on their website several reports on the treatment of and health issues faced by asylum seekers and refugees, as well as on refugee doctors and BMA policy in this area. These appear in several different sections of the site, but are accessible by searching the site with the terms 'asylum' and 'refugees'. The BMA has also developed a database of refugee doctors with the Refugee Council, which would no doubt provide useful aggregate data for those researching the skills and professional backgrounds of refugees.

### **Law Society for England and Wales**

[http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/dcs/newsubject.asp?category\\_id=494](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/dcs/newsubject.asp?category_id=494)

The immigration section of the Law Society's website grants access to the full text of all their outputs pertaining to asylum and immigration, including responses to legislation, guidelines for the practice of law in this area, the Immigration Bulletin newsletter, and the activities of committees and panels concerned with immigration law.

### **Royal College of Nursing (RCN)**

<http://www.rcn.org.uk/news/refugeenurses.php>

Also a professional body representing nurses, RCN has developed a database of refugee nurses, which would no doubt provide useful aggregate data for those researching the skills and professional backgrounds of refugees.

### **Trades Union Congress**

<http://www.tuc.org.uk>

The TUC has campaigned on a number of refugee and asylum issues. By using the search function on its website, you can access a number of its responses to policy developments and government consultations.

## Private research companies

A number of private research companies conduct research and surveys on refugee and asylum issues. These companies can be a useful source of information on ongoing and completed research projects. Although some may provide links and summaries of final reports, in many cases the final reports are only available from the commissioner of the research, which may be a government body or an NGO.

### **MORI**

<http://www.mori.com>

MORI has conducted a number of attitude surveys on refugees and asylum seekers and has also been involved in research projects on refugee populations. Its website provides news releases and summaries of research and surveys, and searching its research and polls archive allows you to identify relevant projects and research results. Its publications section also provides useful resources on research methods and analysis, particularly in relation to opinion polls.

### **Michael Bell Associates**

<http://www.mba4consultancy.co.uk>

Michael Bell Associates is a research and consultancy practice with a specialisation in refugee and asylum issues. Its website provides information on current and completed projects and links to published reports.

Other companies that have conducted research and consultancy on refugee issues include BMRB (<http://www.bmr.co.uk>) and Focus Consultancy (<http://www.focus-consultancy.co.uk>).

## Portals and information hubs

There are now a number of portals and hubs dedicated to information on refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Other more internationally-focussed portals also provide an range of resources and materials on the UK context. These portals often have many downloadable materials and searchable databases that facilitate resource discovery and improve resource accessibility.

### **Asylum Support Information**

<http://www.asylumsupport.info>

This resource consists of two separate services – a daily email with links to media stories, government and sector publications, conference details etc on all aspects of asylum and refugee issues, and a website providing access to a vast array of full text information. The email service is chiefly UK focused, though EU and international information is also provided. The website divides materials into UK and international news stories, publications, links, and features, and further divides each section by theme. The email is an excellent way to keep up with current and pending events, while the website is a great first stop for access to the full text of publications of every variety on asylum and refugee issues. The services are managed and maintained free of charge by Frank Corrigan.

### **Electronic Immigration Network (EIN)**

<http://www.ein.org.uk>

See EIN presentation!

### **European Migration Information Network**

<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/>

The European Migration Information Network (EMIN), based in the Migration Research Unit (MRU) at University College London (UCL), hosts a directory of organisations, individuals, and projects concerned with research into European international migration (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/>), a list of migration networks (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/networks/>), a glossary of migration terms (<http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/glossary/>), a database of available migration and asylum data ([http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data\\_search/](http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data_search/)), and a list of European data providers ([http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data\\_providers/](http://www.emin.geog.ucl.ac.uk/data_providers/)).

### **Forced Migration Online (FMO)**

<http://www.forcedmigration.online>

See FMO presentation!

### **Harpweb – Health for asylum seekers and refugees portal**

<http://www.harpweb.org.uk>

HARPWEB provides access to information, practical tools, and articles written and produced by health care professionals, non-governmental organisations, academics, and research bodies with expert knowledge of working with asylum seekers and refugees, both in the UK and other countries around the world. Information is organised under the headings children info, women info, men info, social info, cultural info, vital resources, practical info, and then further divided by type of disease. Information provided includes contact details for relevant organisations, general resources, translated materials, articles, self help materials, etc.

### **Harpweb Mental Health – Mental health and well-being resource**

<http://www.mentalhealth.harpweb.org.uk/>

This spin-off from HARPWEB focuses on information and resources about the mental health of asylum seekers and refugees.

### **Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK**

<http://www.icar.org.uk>

ICAR's website provides digests of recent publications on refugee and asylum issues and navigation guides to key issues and populations. The site features searchable directories of publications, websites, and projects, as well as databases of researchers and postgraduates working on UK refugee issues. The site has a statistics section offering statistical summaries and signposts on major themes, and a real lives section linking users to first-hand accounts of refugee experiences. The Mapping the UK section provides an overview of asylum issues as they affect specific cities and towns around the UK, including histories of settlement, statistics, resources, and contacts for the local area. The site also includes downloadable versions of ICAR's own publications, from research reports to events reports. The Ask ICAR! enquiry service also responds to information requests from a range of parties.

### **Moving Here**

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/default.htm>

Moving Here provides free online access to resources which record and illustrate the migration of Caribbean, Irish, Jewish and South Asian communities to England over the past two centuries, and is branching out to cover other populations. The website offers free access to online versions of original material related to migration, including photographs, personal papers, government documents, maps and art objects, as well as a collection of sound recordings and video clips. Users have also submitted stories of their migration to the UK and these can also be accessed online. Most of the material available on this site has been contributed by the Moving Here partners. These are 30 local, regional and national museums, archives and libraries from across England, which have provided digital versions of items from their original collections. The site has exhibitions and galleries showcasing collated materials, and a searchable catalogue.

### **Nottingham Asylum Seekers (NOTTAS)**

<http://www.nottas.org.uk>

NOTTAS is an internet zone designed to enable local organisations to share and access information from one source. The website includes details of organisations working in the Nottingham area, downloadable training and briefing materials for professionals on a range of issues, and information on the needs of and services for refugees and asylum seekers in Nottingham. News, details of events, reports on events, and first hand accounts from refugees and asylum seekers are also included in the site. NOTTAS also provides information on research projects relevant to or conducted in the local area, with links and downloads provided where possible (<http://www.nottas.org.uk/research.htm>). Local and national statistics are also featured (<http://www.nottas.org.uk/support.htm#num>).

### **refugeeaccess.info**

<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/>

This online service is the website of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Information provided includes contact details for agencies working with asylum seekers and refugees in the area

(<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/agency.asp>), local examples of best practice in a number of subject areas (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=2&id=3>), the full text of their newsletter (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=2&id=3>), and funding information (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=4&pid=71>). Many resources are translated into a number of languages.

RefugeeNet - [EU Networks on Reception, Integration and Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees](#)

<http://www.refugeenet.org/>

RefugeeNet is an information resource on organisations and projects in Europe working on refugee integration themes such as education, language, vocational training, health, reception, and voluntary return. An archive of documents offers the full text of reports emanating chiefly from the European Commission in both English and French

(<http://www.refugeenet.org/documents/archives.php3>). An inventory of integration activities allows you to search by integration topic, country, and keyword

([http://www.refugeenet.org/integration\\_activities/zoek.php3](http://www.refugeenet.org/integration_activities/zoek.php3)). Note that the project ended in February 2002 and that the bulk of the materials predate this time.

## Archives of raw data for secondary analysis

There are many archives that offer researchers the opportunity to analyse 'raw' data, or re-analyse material collected and analysed by other researchers. These resources are often neglected by postgraduates who are keen to conduct their own qualitative research rather than examine data compiled by others. However, excellent work can be produced on the basis of, for example, recorded oral histories languishing in archives, or such material could be used in addition to data you have collected yourself.

Some examples include:

### **Qualidata - Economic and Social Data Service, University of Essex**

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata>

The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) is a national data service that came into operation in January 2003. ESDS Qualidata is a specialist service of the ESDS led by the UK Data Archive (UKDA) at the University of Essex. The service provides access and support for a range of social science qualitative datasets, promoting and facilitating increased and more effective use of data in research, learning and teaching. Data is commonly acquired via the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Datasets Policy requiring that all research grant award holders offer the archive data collected during the course of their research.

Researchers, students and teachers from all fields and types of organisation may register with the UKDA and obtain data. However, some datasets may have restrictions on access. For example, commercial usage may be restricted. Students in the UK sector can obtain the data at no cost.

Qualidata offers a resource discovery hub via both the UKDA catalogue record and its own search engine, Qualicat. Recent research is available in machine-readable format (Word, RTF), which is available online with no access restrictions. Older research is available in paper format. Data held includes: in-depth and semi-structured interviews; focus groups; field notes and observations; documents and photographs.

Examples of qualitative data on refugees held in archives includes Panos' 'Women in conflict' oral testimony project (consists of 189 interview transcripts and 49 interview summaries) and the British Red Cross archives.

### **Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex**

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/>

The archive results from the work of the social research organisation, Mass-Observation, which specialises in material about everyday life in Britain. The archive contains papers that were generated by the original Mass-Observation social research organisation (1937 to early 1950s), and newer material collected continuously since the 1981. This organisation was founded in 1937, and comprised of a team of observers and a panel of volunteer writers to study the everyday lives of ordinary people in Britain. The national panel was composed of people from all over Britain who either kept diaries or replied to regular open-ended questionnaires sent to them by the central team of Mass-Observers. This original work continued until the early 1950s.

The national panel was revived by the archive in 1981 and continues today with people all over the country keeping diaries or replying to directives that ask them to submit their views on various topics four times a year.

The archive is open to researchers provided they agree to abide by the conditions protecting the collection. The archive holds all the material generated by Mass-Observation between 1937 and 1949, with a few later additions from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the material from 1981 to the present day.

The materials fall into three main categories: a series of 3,000 typed reports produced by members who made up the central team of investigators that summarise the various studies; the raw material behind the various investigations (observations, survey papers, questionnaire replies, descriptions of places and events, newspaper cuttings and printed ephemera); the diaries and other personal material (day surveys and directive replies) submitted by members of the national panel.

Numerous directives from 1990 – present have addressed issues of racism and immigration, with one directive focussing on refugees and asylum seekers. The responses to these directives are a very interesting lens on public opinion. Interesting relevant directives include: racial discrimination & racial characteristics (Spring 1990); community and 'foreigners' (Spring 1993); 'Coming to Britain' (asylum seekers and refugees) (Summer 2000); ethnic minorities and jokes (Spring 2002); refugees from Kosovo (Summer 1999); and refugees from Afghanistan (Special 2001 & Autumn 2001). The material from the 1939 – 1951 period also includes interesting material on attitudes towards 'Jews', 'negroes' and other 'foreigners' generated by the Mass-Observation surveys.

#### **Museum of London oral history projects**

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk>

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/frames.asp?http%3A//www.museumoflondon.org.uk/MOLsite/londonsvoices>

The Museum of London has been recording the memories of Londoners since 1992. Its oral history archive now contains thousands of hours of interviews and many other life documents such as photographs. The oral history interviews feature a wide variety of people who have lived and worked in London and who talk about their lives and everyday experiences. Many of the people who have been interviewed are of migrant origin, and a number are refugees. Researchers can access the oral history archive, and other museum archives, by appointment. Full text versions of a number of the interviews are also available online.

#### **Oral History Collection, British Library Sound Archive**

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/history.html>

The Sound Archive holds recordings made by oral history pioneers as well as major deposited collections covering a wide range of subject areas from British colonialism to religion, and from women's history to Jewish history.

The Oral History collection can be searched via the Sound Archive's online catalogue and the Listening and Viewing Service provides free public access to the Archive's collections of recorded sound and video. The Transcription Service provides copies of recordings to users once the appropriate copyright clearance is secured.

Material on refugees and asylum seekers includes the collection of London Museum of Jewish Life oral history interviews, Central British Fund Kindertransport interviews, a number of collections of interviews with Holocaust survivors and the collection of interviews from the recent Vietnamese Oral History Project. Many interviews from other collections that cover the topic of refugees, or are from refugees themselves, can also be found by searching the archive.

### **Other archives and oral history projects**

A large number of oral histories are held in archives and libraries around the UK. Examples of some institutions and projects that may hold or have generated oral histories and other information on refugee populations include:

Bradford Heritage Unit (BHU)

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/about/bhu.htm>

Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Libraries, Archives & Museum Service)

Croydon Museum and Heritage Service (CMHS)

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/clocktower>

Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre

<http://www.hfusc.org.uk/eco hp/info.html>

Oral history projects, Southampton City Council

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/leisure/oralhistory/>

Sound Archive, Museum of Welsh Life

<http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/mwl/collections/sound/>

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop

<http://www.wforalhistory.org.uk/>

### **UK Data Archive**

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>

The UK Data Archive at the University of Essex is dedicated to supporting quality research and education by supplying social and economic datasets for secondary analysis. Most of the datasets it holds are numeric and are derived from social surveys.

In the context of the data archives, 'data' means computer-readable data. Data are created in a wide variety of format. Numeric data may result when textual information (such as answers to survey questions) has been coded, or they may represent individual or aggregated quantities, for instance of sums of money earned or goods exported. Data are typically then analysed by users with the use of statistical software. Qualitative material, such as in-depth interviews or diaries, anthropological field notes, as well as the complete answers to survey questions, are also available for computer analysis.

Numeric data are available in a range of formats, the most popular being SPSS, STATA and ASCII tab-delimited. Qualitative materials are typically available as word-processed documents or databases. Datasets are deposited in the UK Data Archive from a variety of sources, including academic researchers, government departments, independent research institutes and market research organisations. Academic research funded by the Economic and Social

Research Council (ESRC) is an important source of data, due to its Datasets Policy whereby all award holders are expected to offer data to the UKDA for archiving.

Censuses and large surveys carried out by governments for their own policy purposes are particularly rich sources of data for further exploration. Central government, and in particular, National Statistics (NS) is a major and regular supplier of data series.

The original data need not necessarily have been collected specifically for research purposes. Administrative databases such as the National Health Service Patient Re-registrations, to take an example in the UK, show where patients are re-registered when they move from one Family Practitioner Area to another as part of a management information system. These data, although collected for a very different purpose, yield valuable information for external researchers on migration patterns between censuses.

Datasets can be found in the UKDA catalogue by searching on specific information. Researchers, students and teachers may register with the UKDA and obtain data. However, some datasets may have restrictions on access. Registered users can download a large and increasing number of datasets direct from the UKDA web site. Students in the UK can obtain the data at no cost.

Examples of relevant quantitative data relating to refugees and asylum seekers available includes: attitude surveys such as Mori polls and Eurobarometer; British Social Attitudes Survey; 'Children's Worlds ... Children's Lives...', a survey on refugee children by the Refugee Council and Institute of Education; National Health Service Patient Re-registrations – useful for studies of asylum seeker mobility and secondary migration; and the International Passenger Survey.

## Listservs

Like them or loathe them, listservs are undoubtedly a very useful way of keeping on top of new developments, publications, and recent media coverage.

Many organisations and networks have their own listservs to communicate with their membership (e.g. local consortia) or to update regular users of their website on new additions and features (e.g. Refugee Council).

However, the list below cites only those listservs that focus on forced migration, cover a range of source materials, include a variety of contributors, and whose purpose is to disseminate information and facilitate discussion rather than communicate with a membership base. There are many other listservs that may include information on certain aspects of these issues, and some are mentioned in the sections above.

Before you subscribe, you should be aware that there is some overlap between the information circulated by the listservs below and this may or may not prove a problem to you!

Examples include:

### **Asylum Support Information**

[www.asylumsupport.info](http://www.asylumsupport.info)

This is a free electronic information service that consists of two separate services – a daily email with links to media stories, government and sector publications, conference details, etc. on all aspects of asylum and refugee issues, and a website providing access to a vast array of full text information (see the section on portals and information hubs). The email service is chiefly UK focused, though EU and international information is also provided. The email is an excellent way to keep up with current and pending events. The services are managed and maintained free of charge by Frank Corrigan.

### **Forced migration list**

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/FORCED-MIGRATION.html>

This listserv is a moderated discussion group on issues concerning refugees and internal displacement, managed by the Information Manager of Forced Migration Online. It is widely subscribed to by academics, students, field workers, and the staff of NGOs and international organisations, and includes discussion of forced migration issues and information about upcoming events, publications, and ongoing research. It is a very lively discussion group, and the members are hugely knowledgeable about a wide range of forced migration issues.

### **Independent Race and Refugee News Network (IRR)**

<http://www.irr.org.uk/asylum/index.html>

In addition to its other work and information services, the network also offers a free customised news service. Subscribers can choose to receive daily or weekly emails that list the latest new stories in the form of a headline and the first paragraph, with hyperlinks to the full story. If you select the 'immediate' option when you subscribe, you can also receive the complete story in the body of your email as soon as it has been published. The network collects stories about asylum and refugee issues from a wide range of sources, including local and regional press.

### **National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC)**

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/news/maillist.htm>

One of the long standing asylum-related listservs, the NCADC listserv has a strong campaigning function and circulates information about asylum seekers who are about to be deported, urging subscribers to act on their behalf. In addition to this, it provides very current information on policy and parliamentary issues, for example information on dates of readings and discussion of relevant legislation in Parliament.

#### **refed**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/refed/>

This Yahoo Groups listserv is a moderated discussion group of refugee education specialists. Members include teachers, education academics, LEA and local council staff, and interested individuals. It is a very lively discussion group, and the members are hugely knowledgeable about a wide range of asylum and refugee issues. Members post questions about, for example, points of law pertaining to refugee and asylum seeker access and rights to educational and social services, the availability of resources, the existence of groups, projects, or experts etc. and always receive several responses. It would serve as an excellent starting point for eliciting ideas and available resources on your research.

#### **Refugeecdnetwork**

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/refugeecdnetwork/>

This Yahoo Groups listserv is for development workers and community development workers based in statutory or voluntary agencies, community organisations working with refugees in the UK, and researchers and individuals interested in community development. It aims to provide subscribers with the opportunity to exchange information, good practice and experience.

#### **Refugee Studies Centre's library accessions list**

The library of the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford circulates a list of all new additions to the library to subscribed individuals on a quarterly basis. Their collection covers international and UK issues comprehensively and is open to the public. The list is organised geographically by region and includes catalogue and keyword information. This can be a useful way of finding out about new publications, journals, and grey literature. Note that the catalogue is also searchable online at <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/rsc>. To register for this list contact Joanna Soedring, Assistant Librarian, at [joanna.soedring@qeh.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.soedring@qeh.oxford.ac.uk).